

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Advisory #4: Update on Influenza Vaccine Supply and Instructions for Requesting Additional Vaccine

TO: Health care providers involved in the administration of influenza vaccine and those who may have patients seeking a vaccine

FROM: Dr. Cort Lohff, State Epidemiologist
Vermont Department of Health

DATE: November 23, 2005

- PLEASE DISTRIBUTE WIDELY -

In this Advisory:

- **UPDATE** - Supply of influenza vaccine for the 2005–06 flu season - Nationally
- **UPDATE** - Supply of influenza vaccine for the 2005-06 flu season – Vermont
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- **UPDATE** - Additional instructions for providers
- **NEW** - Additional vaccine to become available – COMPLETE SURVEY

UPDATE - Supply of influenza vaccine for the 2005–06 flu season - Nationally

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 80 million doses of vaccine is expected to be delivered, greatly exceeding last year's supply of 61 million doses and enough to meet past consumer demand which has usually been around 70-75 million doses.

UPDATE - Supply of influenza vaccine for the 2005–06 flu season - Vermont

- To monitor influenza vaccine supply in Vermont, the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) has been surveying all Visiting Nurse Associations (VNA) and Home Health Agencies (HHA), hospitals and nursing homes on a weekly basis. With a few exceptions, the vaccine supply for hospitals and nursing homes generally appears good. However, the same can not be said for the VNA and HHA that operate community clinics. Collectively, less than 60% of the vaccine ordered by these agencies has arrived, and some agencies have yet to receive any vaccine.

UPDATE - Availability of influenza vaccine for Vaccine for Children (VFC) Providers

- All the vaccine ordered by the Vermont Department of Health for distribution to VFC-enrolled providers has arrived. Supplies appear to be sufficient to meet the demand. VFC-enrolled providers in need of additional vaccine should contact their Health Department District Office.

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UPDATE – Additional instructions to providers

- **If you ordered vaccine through one or more distributors**, continue to remind these distributors that you still want this vaccine. Distributors may cancel orders with manufacturers if they think they will not be able to sell the vaccine.
- **If you are unsure of the amount of vaccine that you will be receiving and the timing of its distribution**, please call your distributor or the manufacturer directly, depending on how you purchased vaccine.
- **If you have surplus vaccine**, please call the Vermont Department of Health Immunization Program at 800 464-4343. We can work with you to identify one or more providers that may need vaccine.
- **If you have patients seeking a vaccine**, please continue to inform them that vaccinations can still be effective if given into late November and December. Additionally, you may refer patients to the flu vaccine clinic finder at www.healthyvermonters.info or they may call the Immunization Program at 800 464-4343.

NEW - Additional vaccine to become available – COMPLETE SURVEY

- The Vermont Department of Health has been informed it will receive 5000 doses of Fluvirin[®] influenza vaccine in 10 dose vials. This vaccine is being made available free of charge to state health departments with the intent that it be distributed to where it's needed most. Anticipating that need may be greater than the 5000 doses available, priority will be given to meet the needs of those in one or more of the following groups:
 - persons aged ≥ 65 years
 - residents of long term care facilities
 - persons aged 18-64 years with co-morbid conditions
 - pregnant women
 - health-care personnel who provide direct patient care
 - household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children aged < 6 months.
- If you are still in need of vaccine, please complete the attached survey. **The survey must be returned by the close of business on Tuesday November 29th**. Further information and instructions will be provided to the contact person listed on the survey. Please note, vaccine will not be shipped to individual practices, but will be made available for pick up at your Health Department District Office during the week of December 5th.

Providers with questions related to this Advisory are encouraged to call the Immunization Program at 800 464-4343. Also please refer to the Vermont Department of Health website: www.healthyvermonters.info for important information and updates related to influenza and influenza vaccine.

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VACCINE SURVEY

Practice/agency/institution information:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/Town: _____
County: _____

Primary contact for this order (where questions can be directed to):

Name: _____
Phone number: _____
Alternate phone number: _____
Email: _____

Number of doses requested (must be in 10 dose increments)

- Number of doses needed for persons in one or more priority group: _____

Priority groups are:

- persons aged ≥ 65 years
- residents of long term care facilities
- persons aged 18-64 years with co-morbid conditions
- pregnant women
- health-care personnel who provide direct patient care
- household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children aged < 6 months

- Number of doses needed for persons NOT in one or more priority group: _____

All forms must be received by 4:30 P.M. Tuesday November 29th

Please fax completed form to VDH, attention Mary Pierce, 802 865-7701

Any questions, please call the Immunization Program at 800 464-4343

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